

# CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

*"A World Class City"*

Police Department

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February 8, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee of the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Many thanks for your long and dedicated service to our great Nation.

I am pleased to write regarding the partnership that the Charlottesville Police Department enjoys with the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia, and to outline our coordinated approach to the investigation and prosecution of gun crime in our district. We believe that this partnership has provided tremendous value and contributed to the safety and well-being of the community that I have been privileged to serve for the past 12 years.

Having served with the Baltimore City Police Department in various command positions for the first half of my professional law enforcement career, I have a great understanding of the impact violent crime has on a community and the difficulties that arise when criminal justice partnerships become fractured. When I assumed the position as Charlottesville's Chief of Police in February of 2001, it was immediately apparent to me that local law enforcement was complimented with competent, aggressive, and just prosecuting authorities at the local and federal levels.

Like many cities across America, Charlottesville has seen the impact of violent crime arising from illegal narcotic and gang related activity. More often than not, such crime brings with it senseless gun violence. I learned quickly that by partnering with our United States Attorney and leveraging the expertise and commitment of his prosecutors, we could systematically dismantle violent criminal enterprises and begin to see an impact on violent crime in our community.

Over the years, the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia has partnered with our agency to systematically dismantle groups responsible for the commission of violent criminal acts that threatened the quality of life in our community. We have worked closely with the United States Attorney's Office in investigating and prosecuting several violent drug gangs in Charlottesville. These successful cases have resulted in the removal of dangerous offenders from our streets. They show that leveraging federal resources in a collaborative way in an effort to make our community safe helps us maintain our city's quality of life.

Those of us who serve in local government cannot aggressively attack violent crime without aligning with partners like our United States Attorney. We are fortunate in Charlottesville to have this alignment. When it comes to gun crime, we use that partnership to make thoughtful decisions about the appropriate venue for particular cases. The decision about whether to prosecute violent criminal offenders who use a firearm to carry out their crimes is the product of careful consideration between our state and federal prosecutors. These decisions are made easier when there is both a relationship and track record of cooperation and historic level of success forged by the state/local collaboration

There is no question that we are being asked to do our jobs better and more efficiently, oftentimes with less money and fewer human assets. In order to accomplish our mission in a way that does not sacrifice our commitment to providing a safe community for our constituents, successful collaborations are a necessity.

I thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy J. Longo, Sr.', followed by a horizontal line.

Timothy J. Longo, Sr.  
Chief of Police  
City of Charlottesville, Virginia